

HINDU CONNECTIONS

July, 2009

AHA 2009 Picnic - Saturday, July 11th, 2009.

This annual event was organized by American Hindu Association and other organizations. The event was a grand success with a sizable turnout of patrons which keeps getting bigger each year. The lunch was a gourmet's delight for all ages, while watermelon,



roasted corn, and hot dogs was an instant hit with kids. Children and adults alike had a good time socializing and playing games like hula hoops, bingo, etc. The other organizations that participated in making this event a success were the AIA (Association of Indians in America), and WITS (Wisconsin Tamil Sangam). For more beautiful pictures, please click here: <http://picasaweb.google.com/AmericanHinduAssociation/AHAPicnic2009?authkey=Gv1sRgCMnS5MqFsom9Kq&feat=directlink>

Art and Design in the Great Temples

Hindu architects, craftsmen and masons achieved excellence in temple building. Though their work was in keeping with tradition, their ingenuity and originality are seen in the art and design of great temples. Looking upon the temple as a microcosm of creation, they depicted the gods and every aspect of divine and human existence. The art of sculpture flourished in the ancient India, and even today many temples in India display exquisite sculpture. These temples include *Krshnapuram* Temple in Thiruneveli, Tamil Nadu; *Kailassanath* Temple in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu; and *Jagannatha* Temple in Puri, Orissa.

Great works of art done in bronze and copper are also found in temples of India. Images of gods, goddesses, saint, *apsaras* (celestial maidens) and kings and queens paying homage to the gods were cast by skilled craftsmen. Temple painting was another highly developed art. Colorful, delicate paintings, with themes from the various *puranas* and *itihisas*, adorned the temple walls and ceilings. Paintings graphically depicted panoramas of life in ancient India. Princes, queens, peasants, ascetics, birds and flowers may be seen on the walls of cave temples even today.

These talented artisans of ancient India built the majestic temples as their offering to the Lord. As they silently dedicated their lives to temple building, their names remain unknown today. Similarly, while the

kings built magnificent temples as mark of their devotion, no attempt was made by them to build palaces or other monuments to commemorate their own greatness. For example, while the *Brhadisvara* Temple in Tanjore, Tamil Nadu, stands as a majestic inspiring work of the Chola kings, there are no palaces or monuments to them existing today.

FISH HATCHERY ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Fish Hatchery Road between Lacy Rd & Shamrock Lane is closed. **Direction to the Temple:**

From Beltline ~ Take South Fish Hatchery Rd ~ Pass Hwy PD, Turn right onto Lacy Rd (**Go 1 mile**), Turn left onto Mutchler Rd, Turn left onto Whalen Rd, Turn right onto South Fish Hatchery Rd and after Vineyard Rd take left turn to 2138 .

From West Beltline and HWY PD (McKee Rd) ~ Take Verona Rd Turn Left onto HWY PD (McKee Rd) Turn right onto South Seminole Hwy, Turn left onto Whalen Rd, Turn right onto South Fish Hatchery Rd and after Vineyard Rd take left turn to 2138 .

From East Beltline~ Take exit for Rimrock Rd and turn left onto Rimrock Rd After few miles it become Oregon Rd. Keep left and continue on Oregon Rd. Turn right into Irish Ln. Turn left onto Caine Rd. Turn right into Whalen Rd. Turn left onto South Fish Hatchery Rd and after Vineyard Rd take left turn to 2138

http://www.americanhindu.net/AHA/Fish_Hatchery_Rd.pdf

GEMS FROM THE BHAGVAD GEETA

This is a series of extracts from the Sri Bhagavada Geeta (The Divine Song). The Bhagavada Geeta is said to be the essence of all the Vedas and Upanishads. It's teachings are as relevant today as they were when the Lord, Sri Krishna, expounded to prince Arjuna on the sacred battle field of Kurukshetra thousands of years ago. While it is impossible to do justice to a profound work such as this in a newsletter, in each edition we present a few randomly chosen set of couplets and their brief meaning. We hope it enriches your life and helps you find a balance between your material and spiritual journey.

Ch6: Couplet # 33

arjuna uvaca

yo 'yam yogas tvaya proktah samyena madhusudana etasyaham na pasyami cancalatvat sthitim sthiram
Arjuna said: O Madhusudana! This Yoga of equality that You have summarized to me, I don't observe its stability, due to restlessness and volatility of the mind.

Ch6: Couplet # 34

cancalam hi manah Krishna pramathi balavad drdham tasyaham nigraham manye vayor iva su-duskaram
O Krishna! Certainly, the mind is restless, turbulent, obstinate and very strong. To control it is as difficult as to control the wind.

Ch6: Couplet # 35

sri-bhagavan uvaca

asamsayam maha-baho mano durnigraham calam abhyasena tu kaunteya vairagyena ca grhyate

Lord Sri Krishna said: O Mighty Armed! Undoubtedly, the mind is restless and can be controlled with very difficulty. But O Son of Kunti! By practice and apathy, mind can be controlled.

Ch6: Couplet # 36

asamyatatmana yogo dusprapa iti me matih

vasyatmana tu yatata sakyo 'vaptum upayatah

Such is My conviction that intemperate persons have difficulty to realize this Yoga of equanimity. But, one who has subdued his mind, who practices it and is diligent, can achieve it.

Ch6: Couplet # 37

arjuna uvaca

ayatih shraddhayopeto yogac calita-manasah

aprapya yoga-samsiddhim kam gatim krishna gacchati

Arjuna asks: O Krishna! One who has faith in Yoga but he is flaccid and with a wavering mind in Yoga, having failed to attain perfection in it, what is his destination (after death)?

Ch6: Couplet # 38

kaccin nobhaya-vibhra staschinnabhram iva nasyati

apratistho maha-baho vimudho brahmanah pathi

O Mighty Armed! Isn't it that such a man having faith in Yoga but unsteady in it and bewildered from the path of God is deprived of both spiritual and worldly pleasures and he perishes like a broken cloud?.

Ch6: Couplet # 39

etan me samsayam krishna chettum arhasy asesatah

tvad-anyaah samsayasyasya chetta na hy upapadyate

O Krishna! Please dispel my doubts as there is no one else to be found, apart from you, who can destroy this doubt.

Ch6: Couplet # 40

sri-bhagavan uvaca

partha naiveha namutra vinasas tasya vidyate

na hi kalyana-krt kascid durgatim tata gacchati

Lord Krishna said: O' Partha! For such a transcendentalist, there is no fall neither in this world nor the other world. O Dear! Anyone who is involved in virtuous activities never gets into an evil state.

Amit Mangar ~ Editor American Hindu Association

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